

Judge Ruffin thought that if the Legislature saw the members of the Society struggling earnestly to help themselves, it would have a contrary effect to that apprehended by Mr. Burgwyn. He alluded to the fact, that the Virginia Agricultural Society had a permanent endowment fund of \$50,000, and said that this Society should have a permanent fund also. That the liberality of the members of the Virginia Society had placed it in an independent position; but we must have Legislative aid, if we expected to continue these exhibitions, as it was necessary to offer larger premiums to attract things from all parts of the State.

The discussion was continued for some time by Messrs. Kenneth Rayner, R. R. Bridgers, and Dr. Wm. R. Holt, and others.

Mr. Richard H. Smith subscribed \$50, and Dr. Wm. R. Holt, of Davidson, entered his two sons as life members. Messrs. Gibson and Vaughan, of the Virginia delegation, also became life members.

On motion of Mr. Smith, the Society proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year:

Judge Ruffin arose, and after remarking that he had declined re-election to the presidency for the last two meetings, said that he would decline once more, and he hoped to be permitted to retire from the position:

Gov. Manly bore testimony to the efficiency and ability of the present incumbent of the Presidency, and thought his loss to the Society at this time would be more severely felt than the want of money. After saying many more complimentary things of the President, he concluded by expressing the hope that Judge Ruffin would re-consider his determination, provided he should be re-elected by acclamation, and forthwith proceeded to put the vote, when one unanimous "aye" assured the Judge that the members appreciated him too highly to hear to his declining the Presidency.

Judge Ruffin arose and said that he could not express his emotion and gratitude for such evidence of the confidence reposed in him, and while he would consent to serve the ensuing year, he wished it distinctly understood that he declined serving any longer:

The Society then proceeded to the election of Vice Presidents, which resulted in the unanimous election of Richard H. Smith, Esq., of Halifax, as 1st Vice President; Jno. S. Dancy, Esq., of Edgecombe, 2d Vice President; Dr. Wm. R. Holt, of Davidson, 3d Vice President; and Hon. Wm. A. Graham, of Orange, 4th Vice President.

The Society then proceeded to the election of a Secretary.

Major Wm. A. Eaton, of Granville, nominated W. D. Cooke, the present Secretary of the Executive Committee, and Mr. H. C. Jones nominated Jno. Spelman.

Mr. Burgwyn, of Halifax, asked the President if the election of Mr. Cooke to the office of Secretary of the Society would deprive the Executive Committee of his services as their Secretary, who replied that Mr. Cooke was really the Secretary of the Executive Committee, but was now acting as Secretary of the Society also; that the salary of the Secretary of the